

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1673
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
PARALYSIS CAUSED DUE TO CONJECTIVITIS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some part of human body get affected by paralysis when one suffers from Conjectivitis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in respect of Maharashtra;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to make people aware of the effects of the disease and the reasons of its occurrence; and
- (d) the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent its recurrence in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b): In conjunctivitis, conjunctiva is the only part of eye which is affected. However, in severe cases, the cornea of the eye may also be affected.

In only one occasion in 1970, some rare cases of conjunctivitis with neurological complication (Polio like motor paralysis) were reported from Mumbai, Maharashtra. Paralysis due to conjunctivitis is a rare occurrence. No reports about occurrence of this disease have been received from other parts of the country.

(c): Information Education Communication (IEC) is an on-going activity under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) with the aim to make people aware about various Eye diseases including conjunctivitis to avoid further complication.

The primary reason of the occurrence of conjunctivitis and its related complications is poor sanitation mainly during monsoon period.

(d): The following steps have been taken under NPCB to prevent Eye diseases including conjunctivitis to avoid further complications:-

1. IEC activities have been intensified to make people aware about various eye diseases including conjunctivitis. At the central level, masses have been advised through poster, booklets and mass media to wash hands and face with clean water frequently, keep separate towel, handkerchief, bed linen etc for each member of the family, wash them with clean water daily and avoid touching of the eyes frequently to avoid spread of Conjunctivitis. The State Governments have been advised to carry out the following activities as a part of IEC activities under the programme to control various eye diseases including conjunctivitis:-

- a) Utilization of local cable network and Regional Doordarshan Kendras and Local Radio Stations
- b) Use of print media by replication of the materials in regional languages, press advertisement in local newspapers etc.
- c) Out-door publicity through wall paintings, hoardings, cinema slides, film shows through field publicity Unit of Ministry of I&B,
- d) Involvement/training of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Health Workers and other system functionaries like ASHA, School Teachers etc. to create awareness about eye diseases.

2. Eye care facilities are being provided to the needy people at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels through Primary Health Centres, District Hospitals, Medical Colleges and Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology.